

April 7, 2021

To: Redistricting Committee

Subject Matter: Regional Communities and the Boundaries of Illinois Districts – West DuPage

For too long the General Assembly of Illinois has controlled the redistricting process across the state by select individuals behind closed doors. Any government process managed in that manner results in a non-transparent, slanted outcome that disadvantages voters. We have seen that outcome with redistricting in Illinois over the years – boundaries designed to favor incumbent candidates, districts where candidates run unopposed time and again, one party rule, and no opportunity for input from voters to improve fairness in the voting process.

Now is the time to make changes and implement a process in 2021 such as the one put forth by the Illinois Senate. It removes the General Assembly and the Governor from the redistricting process and requires legislative maps be developed by an independent group through public hearings. This is a process that is transparent, will induce qualified individuals to run for office, and will provide the fairness voters have sought in the past, such as the voter proposed constitutional amendment a few years ago.

Voter suppression is big news these days. Even a requirement to prove voter identity, an important issue in a world of identity theft and election integrity, has been cast as voter suppression. Well, what about gerrymandering? It's the worst form of voter suppression because votes don't matter.

All that is necessary for change is for the Redistricting Committee is to listen to the public's input during these hearings and agree to create a process like the one the Senate proposes.

Sincerely,

Robert Dignan